

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A protective tool (68A, 68B) for a therapeutic material delivery device comprising an outer needle (2) having an outer tubular needle (2A) and an outer needle hub (2B) supporting the outer tubular needle (2A), the protective tool being to be attached to said outer needle (2) for the protection thereof,

the protective tool comprising a cover (8'A) and a cap (61) or stopper (65) attached to a forward end of said cover for protecting the forward end of the outer tubular needle (2A),

wherein said cover (8'A) is formed of a plurality of tubes (8'A1, 8'A2, 8'A3, ...) having different diameters that are formed so as to consecutively decrease from a forward place to the outer needle hub (2B) in a backward place, and said tubes are thereby connected such that the cover (8'A) is extendable in the longitudinal direction.

Claim 2 (Original): The protective tool (68A) for a therapeutic material delivery device as recited in claim 1, wherein said cap (61) has an inner tube (61A) formed inside, said inner tube (61A) has, made in a bottom thereof, a hole (62) for inserting and passing said outer tubular needle (2A), and said inner tube (61A) has, formed in an outer circumference, a groove portion (63) for inserting a forward end of said outer tubular needle.

Claim 3 (Original): The protective tool (68B) for a therapeutic material delivery device as recited in claim 1, wherein said stopper (65) is constituted of a tubular opening/closing portion (66) having a forward end and a connector portion (70),

said opening/closing portion (66) has slits (71) formed in the longitudinal direction, one in an upper portion and the other in a lower portion, said forward end has an opening portion (66a), and said connector portion (70) has pressing portions (67) formed, one on the

right and the other on the left, and has cutout grooves (69) formed, one in an upper place and the other in a lower place.

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Claim 4 (Original): A protective tool (68A, 68B) for a therapeutic material delivery device comprising an outer needle (2) having an outer tubular needle (2A) and an outer needle hub (2B) supporting the outer tubular needle (2A), a middle needle (3) having a middle tubular needle (3A) and a middle needle hub (3B) supporting the middle tubular needle (3A) and an inner needle (4) having a solid needle (4A) and an inner needle hub (4B) supporting the solid needle (4A), the outer needle, the middle needle and the inner needle being to be connected for use, the protective tool being to be attached to said outer needle (2) for the protection thereof,

which protective tool comprises a cover (8'A) and a cap (61) or a stopper (65) that is attached to the forward end of said cover for protecting the forward end of said outer tubular needle (2A),

wherein said cover (8'A) is formed of a plurality of tubes (8'A1, 8'A2, 8'A3, ...) having different diameters that are formed so as to consecutively decrease from a forward place to the outer needle hub (2B) in a backward place, and said tubes are thereby connected such that the cover 8'A is extendable in the longitudinal direction.

Claim 5 (Original): The protective tool (68A) for a therapeutic material delivery device as recited claim 4, wherein said cap (61) has an inner tube (61A) formed inside, said inner tube has, in a bottom thereof, a hole (62) for inserting and passing said outer tubular needle (2A), and said inner tube (61A) has, formed in an outer circumference thereof, a groove portion for inserting the forward end of said outer tubular needle (2A).

Claim 6 (Original): The protective tool (68B) for a therapeutic material delivery device as recited in claim 4, wherein said stopper (65) is constituted of a tubular opening/closing portion (66) having a forward end and a connector portion (70),

said opening/closing portion (66) has slits (71) formed in the longitudinal direction, one in an upper portion and the other in a lower portion, said forward end has an opening portion (66a), and said connector portion (70) has pressing portions (67) formed, one on the right and the other on the left, and has cutout grooves (69) formed, one in an upper place and the other in a lower place.

Claim 7 (Original): A therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) comprising an outer needle (2) having an outer tubular needle (2A) and an outer needle hub (2B) supporting the outer tubular needle (2A), wherein said outer needle (2) is covered with the protective tool (68A, 68B) for a therapeutic material delivery device as recited in any one of claims 1 to 3, and the forward end of said outer tubular needle (2A) of said outer needle (2) is capped with a sheath (5') for protecting said forward end.

Claim 8 (Original): The therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) as recited in claim 7, wherein said sheath (5') has a projection (6') formed on an inner-circumference base portion thereof.

Claim 9 (Original): A therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) comprising an outer needle (2) having an outer tubular needle (2A) and an outer needle hub (2B) supporting the outer tubular needle (2A), a middle needle (3) having a middle tubular needle (3A) and a middle needle hub (3B) supporting the middle tubular needle (3A) and an inner needle (4) having a solid needle (4A) and an inner needle hub (4B) supporting the solid needle (4A), said

outer needle (2), said middle needle (3) and said inner needle (4) being to be connected in this order for use,

wherein the protective tool (68A, 68B) for a therapeutic material delivery device as recited in any one of claims 4 to 6 is attached to said outer needle (2).

Claim 10 (Original): The therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) as recited in claim 9, wherein said solid needle (4A) is inserted in said middle tubular needle (3A), said middle tubular needle (3A) is inserted in said outer tubular needle (2A) and the forward end of said outer tubular needle (2A) is capped with a sheath (5') for protection of said forward end.

Claim 11 (Original): The therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) as recited in claim 9 or 10, wherein said outer tubular needle (2A), said middle tubular needle (3A) and said solid needle (4A) are formed such that said solid needle (4A) has a largest length, that said middle tubular needle (3A) has an intermediate length and that said outer tubular needle (2A) has a smallest length.

Claim 12 (Original): A therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) comprising a outer needle (2) having an outer tubular needle (2A) and an outer needle hub (2B) supporting the outer tubular needle (2A), a middle needle (3) having a middle tubular needle (3A) and a middle needle hub (3B) supporting the middle tubular needle (3A) and an inner needle (4) having a solid needle (4A) and an inner needle hub (4B) supporting the solid needle (4A),

wherein said outer needle (2), said middle needle (3) and said inner needle (4) are being to be connected for use.

Claim 13 (Original): The therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) as recited in claim 12, wherein the forward end of the outer tubular needle (2A) of said outer needle (2) is capped with a sheath (5') for protection of said forward end.

Claim 14 (Original): The therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) as recited in claim 13, wherein said sheath (5') has a projection (6') formed on an inner circumference base portion thereof.

Claim 15 (Original): The therapeutic material delivery device (1A, 1B) as recited in claim 12, wherein said outer tubular needle (2A), said middle tubular needle (3A) and said solid needle (4A) are formed such that said solid needle (4A) has a largest length, that said middle tubular needle (3A) has an intermediate length and that said outer tubular needle (2A) has a smallest length.

Claim 16-24 (Canceled)